

Date: February 5, 2004

To: Paul Dabbs  
Lisa Beutler  
Lloyd Fryer  
Mike Wade

From: Alex Hildebrand

Thank you for sending me a copy of the current draft of Chapter 3. I offer the following comments.

- 1) Under Planning for an Uncertain Future, Page 2, first paragraph, the next to the last sentence should read “in order to overcome this difficulty, as well as existing gaps in our data and analytical tools, DWR and the Water Plan Public Advisory committee developed three plausible future scenarios, which must comply with the laws regarding the purpose of the Water Plan, but which vary the range of key factors that lead to different predictions of amounts of water needed for urban, agricultural, and environmental uses for each of the scenarios like population, the agricultural water needed to assure an adequate future supply of essential agricultural products, and environmental water.”
- 2) Under Frequency and Intensity of Flood Events, it should be noted that capturing these flows in excess of Delta outflow requirements constitutes a very large potential for increasing the developed water supply. Measures to reduce flood flows usually also increase water supply
- 3) Under the heading of Global Climate Change, it should be clearly stated that although the Water Plan calls attention to this potential problem it does not propose measures to offset the effect on water supply that would result from reduced water storage in the Sierra snow pack.
- 4) Comments on 3.6 Future Scenarios and Responses
  - a) Page 5. The AC is not in agreement that Irrigated Land Area or Crop Acreage is a “key driver” for needed agricultural production. The key driver is providing the essential agricultural products needed by the 2030 population. There is plenty of land in California even though agriculture may be driven to use poorer land. The key driver in producing food is adequate water. The important consideration also is not Crop Unit water Use per acre, it is the production of essential agricultural product per acre foot of water consumed by the crop or otherwise lost to reuse.

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- b) Page 7 under the heading “Agriculture”. The “current trend” is that there are about 600,000 more people to feed and clothe every year, and they must be provided with adequate farm products per AB 2587. We propose to provide housing for 600,000 more people each year, but they must also have food.
  
- c) Page 11. Agriculture  
There is no credible basis for the assertion that crop acreage will not increase over the 2000 level, or for the claim that we can feed 50% more people with no increase in agricultural water supply. The discussion does not even address the fact that the 2000 agricultural water supply has been and is being reduced by water transfers from agriculture, by urban sprawl taking the water that is appurtenant to the land it preempts, by conversion of farm land to wetlands, by reductions in the sustainable use of groundwater, etc.